AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-36 (Cancelled)

37.   (New) A method comprising:

   receiving a control message from an Ethernet switch, the control message

      identifying a priority level from among a plurality of priority levels; and

   based on the control message, pausing transmission of Ethernet frames associated

      with lower priority levels than the priority level.

38.   (New) The method of claim 37, further comprising monitoring a plurality of

   queues to buffer Ethernet frames, each queue associated with a different priority

   level, wherein the monitoring is performed at the Ethernet switch.

39.   (New) The method of claim 38, further comprising:

   comparing use of each of the plurality of queues with a threshold relating to queue

      capacity for the transmission of Ethernet frames;

   based on the comparing, identifying the priority level associated with a queue;

      and

   generating the control message identifying the priority level.

40.   (New) The method of claim 39, further comprising communicating the control

   message to trigger the pausing of the transmission of Ethernet frames..

41.   (New) The method of claim 37, further comprising resuming the transmission of

   Ethernet frames associated with the lower priority levels than the priority level

   upon receiving another control message or upon completion of a predetermined

   time period as specified in the control message.

Docket No.: 42390P11856   2
Application No.: 10/037,669

42. (New) The method of claim 37, further comprising based on the control message, pausing the transmission of Ethernet frames associated with higher priority levels than the priority level.

43. (New) A system comprising:

a first logic to

receive a control message from an Ethernet switch, the control message

identifying a priority level from among a plurality of priority levels; and

based on the control message, pause transmission of Ethernet frames associated

with lower priority levels than the priority level.

44. (New) The system of claim 43, further comprising a second logic coupled with the first logic, the second logic to monitor a plurality of queues to buffer Ethernet frames, each queue associated with a different priority level.

45. (New) The system of claim 44, wherein the second logic is further to:

compare use of each of the plurality of queues with a threshold relating to queue

capacity for the transmission of Ethernet frames;

based on the comparing, identify the priority level associated with a queue; and

generate the control message identifying the priority level.

46. (New) The system of claim 45, wherein the second logic to communicate the control message to the first logic to trigger the pausing of the transmission of Ethernet frames.

47. (New) The system of claim 43, wherein the first logic to resume the transmission of Ethernet frames associated with the lower priority levels than the priority level upon receiving another control message or upon completion of a predetermined time period as specified in the control message.

Docket No.: 42390P11856 3
Application No.: 10/037,669

48.   (New) The system of claim 43, wherein the first logic to, based on the control message, pause the transmission of Ethernet frames associated with higher priority levels than the priority level.

49.   (New) A machine-readable medium comprising instructions which, when executed, cause a machine to:

receive a control message from an Ethernet switch, the control message

identifying a priority level from among a plurality of priority levels; and

based on the control message, pause transmission of Ethernet frames associated

with lower priority levels than the priority level.

50.   (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 49, wherein the instructions which, when executed, further cause the machine to monitor a plurality of queues to buffer Ethernet frames, each queue associated with a different priority level, wherein the monitoring is performed at the Ethernet switch.

51.   (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 50, wherein the instructions which, when executed, further cause the machine to:

compare use of each of the plurality of queues with a threshold relating to queue

capacity for the transmission of Ethernet frames;

based on the comparing, identify the priority level associated with a queue; and

generate the control message identifying the priority level.

52.   (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 51, wherein the instructions which, when executed, further cause the machine to communicate the control message to trigger the pausing of the transmission of Ethernet frames..

53.   (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 49, wherein the instructions which, when executed, further cause the machine to resume the transmission of

Docket No.: 42390P11856   4
Application No.: 10/037,669

Ethernet frames associated with the lower priority levels than the priority level upon receiving another control message or upon completion of a predetermined time period as specified in the control message.

54. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 49, wherein the instructions which, when executed, further cause the machine to, based on the control message, pause the transmission of Ethernet frames associated with higher priority levels than the priority level.

Docket No.: 42390P11856   5
Application No.: 10/037,669